

## AIDS NETWORK OF EDMONTON

### NEWSLETTER

MAY 16, 1986

Volume 1 Number 4

#### UPDATE - AIDS IN CANADA

...As of Mar 07, 1986, the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control in Ottawa was reporting 496 confirmed cases of AIDS in Canada, and expected that figure to have doubled by the end of this year.

Of that figure, 25 cases were diagnosed in Alberta, and at that time, 12 were living.

April was a busy month for the AIDS NETWORK; the official opening of the Ross Armstrong Office at 10233 - 98 St. on Friday Apr 18 was a big success, and we were all pleased that Ross was able to be here to 'do the honours' and share in our celebration.

At the same time, Michael Phair, chairperson of the AIDS NETWORK, announced that Alberta Social Services Minister Connie Osterman had approved a grant application for \$50,485.

The good news just kept getting better - Alberta Manpower announced that they would finance 3 full-time positions over the summer through their STEP program. The NETWORK was able to hire Karl Siegfried as Community Information Worker, Larry Courcelles as Community Fund-Raiser, and David Airth as Assistant to the Co-ordinator.

And, on May 09, the Wild Rose Foundation announced that it would approve a grant application for \$31,034.80 by the NETWORK.

The increased staff has allowed the NETWORK to extend our office hours:

Mon - Tues: 10:00 - 6:00  
Wed - Fri: 10:00 - 9:00

The funding will enable the NETWORK to begin some of our long-awaited projects:

- the revision and republication of informational pamphlets, flyers, and posters;
- the mounting of forums and workshops to educate the high-risk groups and the general public about AIDS;
- the establishment of a thorough archive of AIDS and AIDS-related information;
- the establishment and maintenance of an AIDS Phone-Line;
- the professional training of volunteers for this Phone-Line, as well as for the various Support Groups, the Speakers Bureau, and the Befriending Program

#### EDUCATION & INFORMATION

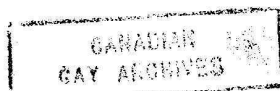
We are currently reworking the "Blood Test" pamphlet, and hope that it will be reprinted sometime in June. Also, a new pamphlet on AIDS-Related Complex is in the works. It should be ready in early July.

An "AIDS Literacy Handbook" is currently being prepared, and we hope that it will be ready in mid-June. In late June, perhaps in conjunction with GALA - Gay and Lesbian Pride Week, the first workshop based on this handbook will be offered.

The Education Committee is seeking volunteers. If you have energy, ideas, or wish to be involved in developing or distributing educational materials, call Karl at 'the Office'.

On Monday, May 26, the AIDS NETWORK will present the first workshop for volunteers on the AIDS Information Telephone Line: 7:00 - 10:00 pm at the AIDS NETWORK Office. Contact Karl at 'the Office' by May 23.

## NO SAD SONGS



On Apr 28, about 70 people came to the Rosy Theatre to enjoy the documentary "No Sad Songs" in support of the AIDS NETWORK. About \$360. was raised by this event, which would have been impossible but for the help and generosity of Roxy owner Tom Hutchinson.

## BUDDIES

As a part of 'Gay Pride Week', the AIDS NETWORK will be showing "Buddies", the first dramatic movie about AIDS, at the Roxy Theatre, 10708 - 124 St.

Tuesday, June 24 7:00pm

Wednesday, June 25 9:15 pm

Admission: \$5.00

## FILMS IN FOCUS

### POIGNANT DRAMA WITHOUT POLEMICS

**BUDDIES** - A film by Arthur J. Bressan Jr., starring Geoff Edholm and David Schachter

The opening and closing images of "Buddies" are identical - a computer printer spitting out the names and numbers of AIDS victims. The seemingly endless list of dates and deaths is a chilling metaphor for the mechanical manner society adopts toward those suffering with the disease.

Filmmaker Arthur J. Bressan Jr., who shot "Buddies" in nine days, focuses on two men - Robert Willow, an AIDS patient, and David Bennett, a volunteer who offers to help Willow through his final months. Through extended conversations between Willow and Bennett in the hospital room and Bennett's reflections on his growing attachment to the dying patient, Bressan carefully weaves a compassionate story of two people trying to deal with death and dying.

Through long dialogues reminiscent of "My Dinner With Andre," Bressan explores the pain and anguish of being a

THE BOSTON GLOBE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1985

minority in America. In one particularly poignant scene, Robert shows David an article by a religious leader who claims that AIDS is God's response to gay life.

"That's like saying that God invented the Nazis to take care of the Jews," rants David, in a moment of genuine rage.

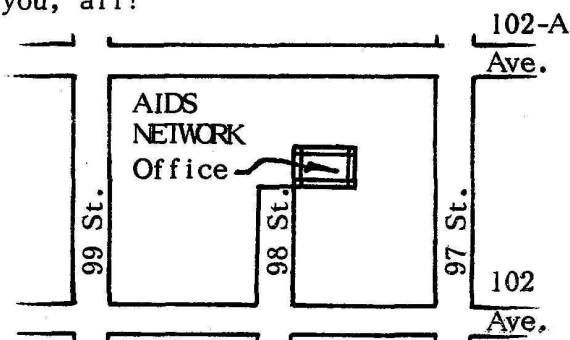
Both Geoff Edholm, as Robert, and David Schachter, as David, are remarkable actors who, given very little time for preparation, create fully realized characters who never fall into any polemical traps. Bressan has the unique ability to simultaneously maintain both the drama and the social message of "Buddies." He never resorts to platitudes or stereotypes to hammer the message home, but instead trusts his characters to communicate their anger and affection through performance.

"Buddies" meaningfully confronts a situation that brings out the best in some and the worst in others.

I hope that moviegoers don't see "Buddies" as a gay movie for a gay audience, but rather as a love story with implications that transcend sexual and political preferences.

By Michael Blower

You're invited to our Wine & Cheese Office Furnishing Party - Friday, May 23rd, from 7:00 - 9:00 pm at the Ross Armstrong Office. Call us at 424-4767 for details. See you, all!



GALA Artists' Workshop - June 13, 14, 15, at 9160 - Jasper Ave.

Fri. June 13 - 7:00 pm: Figurative Drawing

Sat. June 14 - 11:00 am: Field Trip

Sun. June 15 - 11:00 am: Parade Art

GALA Artshow - June 19 - 26.

at AIDS NETWORK Office - 10233 - 98 St.

Official Opening - June 21, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

for details, call: John - 439-1208

Tanya - 488-6979

Linda - 435-6627

We would like to express our thanks to the many people who have volunteered their time and services to us. Some we have not been able to put to work yet - please be patient! We haven't forgotten about you, we are just now getting ready to begin volunteer training and projects.

You are invited, encouraged, begged to help with the AIDS NETWORK Newsletter. If you are interested in joining the Newsletter Production Committee, please contact David at the AIDS NETWORK office.

## - FLASHBACK -

25¢ from every beer & highball sold donated to the AIDS NETWORK WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

"AIDS Network of Edmonton Newsletter May 16, 1986 Vol. 1 Issue. 4." AIDS Network of Edmonton Newsletter, vol. 1, no. 4, 16 May 1986. Archives of Sexuality and Gender, [link.gale.com/apps/doc/CNBIMJ140960311/AHSL?u=edmo87290&sid=bookmark-AHSL](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CNBIMJ140960311/AHSL?u=edmo87290&sid=bookmark-AHSL). Accessed 12 July 2024.